

NDIA Technology Trends 2003 Conference—Mid-Atlantic Congressional Caucus

Simulation Based Acquisition and DAU Support

DAU Professor Randy Zittel, Northeast and Capital Region campus, was recently invited to speak at Technology Trends 2002 (TechTrends 2002), the annual technology-driven, business development conference and exhibit sponsored by the Strengthening the Mid-Atlantic Region for Tomorrow (SMART) Congressional Caucus and the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA). TechTrends 2002 was held April 3-4 in Baltimore, Md.

Zittel participated as a panelist on the "Materials, Composites, and Nanotechnology" forum, which focused on using information technology to facilitate collaboration in the development of new materials. He specifically discussed SBA, or Simulation Based Acquisition, the DoD initiative that focuses on using advanced information collaborative technologies.

Leading-edge SBA activities were discussed during the session, including the Aerospace Materials Technology Consortium (AMTC) initiative being led by Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) and the Office of Naval Research with support from the SMART Caucus. AMTC plans to provide a one-stop telecollaborative virtual environment spanning the national aerospace materials community, including government, industry, and academic institutions, to promote national security and competitiveness.

In addition, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)-sponsored/NAVAIR-managed Accelerated Insertion of Materials (AIM) Initiative is targeted to streamline the Discovery to Deployment processes for advanced ma-

terials technology through the use of modeling and simulation, and advanced test and engineering methodologies.

While TechTrends 2002 is the third in the TechTrends series, the SMART caucus was formalized in 2001, with Congressmen Rob Andrews (N.J.), Michael Castle (Del.), Steny Hoyer (Md.), and Curt Weldon (Pa.) leading the current 40 members.

U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski (Md.) and Navy Vice. Adm. Joseph Dyer, Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) served as this year's keynote speakers. NAVSEA is also a strong sponsor of the annual commer-

cial conference. A significant number of DoD development agencies within the four-state mid-Atlantic area participated in the vendor exhibitions, showcasing the high-technology initiatives that continue to fuel economic growth in the mid-Atlantic region.

Congressman Weldon, caucus leader for the conference, thanked Zittel and the NDIA conference board of directors for bringing their perspective on advanced technology opportunities to such a broad audience.

For further information on the Congressional SMART Caucus, visit <http://www.smartcaucus.org/>.



From left: Thomas Fenerty, CEO, NAVMAR Applied Sciences Corp; Carl Englebert, NDIA Conference Board of Directors; Congressman Curt Weldon (Pa.); and DAU Professor Randy Zittel.

Photo courtesy NAVMAR Applied Sciences Corp.